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OER Research Hub Data 2013-2015: Informal Learners

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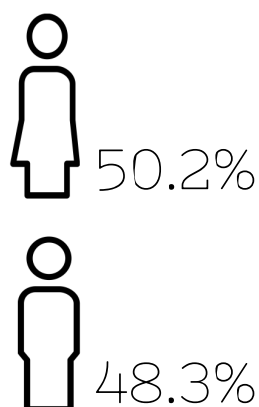
oer
RESEARCH HUB

INFORMAL LEARNERS

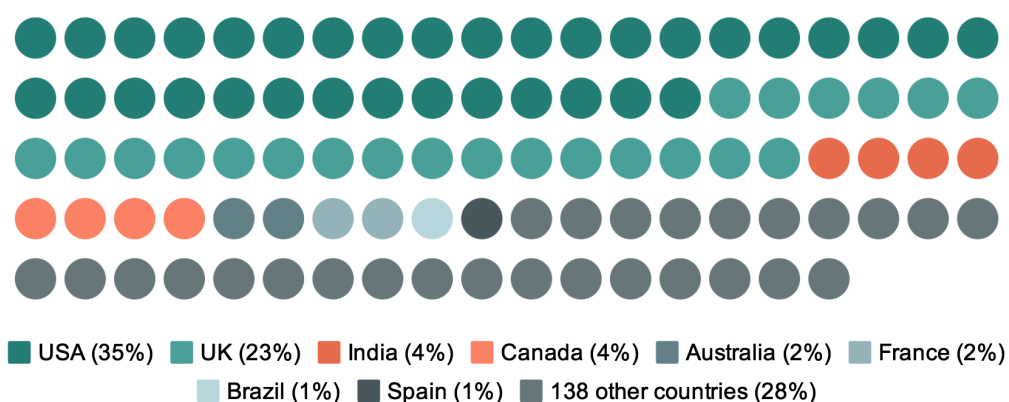
The OER Research Hub is a project funded by the Hewlett Foundation to research the impact of open educational resources (OER) on teaching and learning. During 2013-2015 survey data were collected from approximately 7,500 users of OER around the globe. This report presents a frequencies analysis of responses obtained from INFORMAL LEARNERS (i.e. learners who are not registered for a course at an educational institution).

Dataset available for download at http://figshare.com/articles/OERRH_Survey_Data_2013_2015/1528263

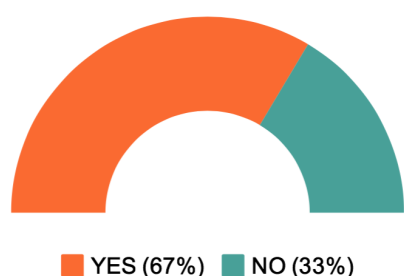
Sample



Country of residence



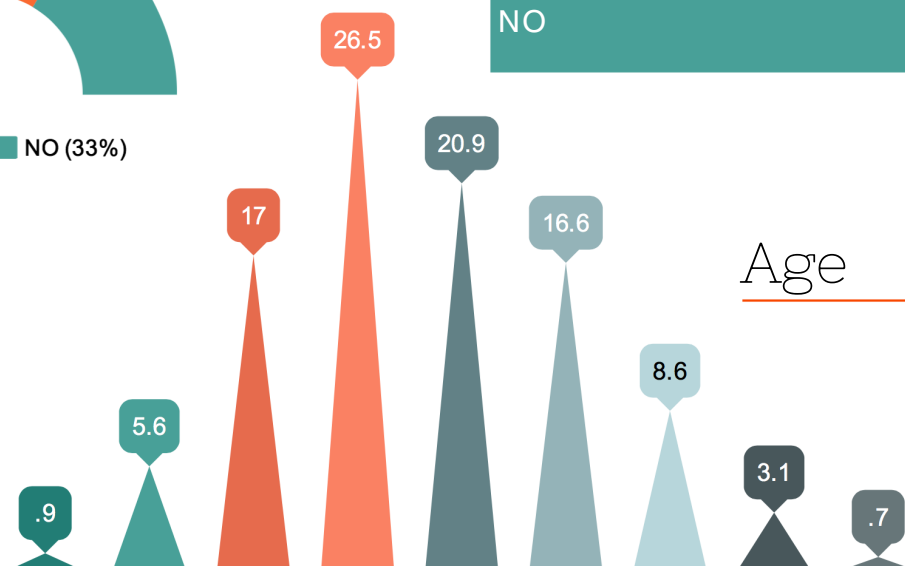
English as first language?



Disability?

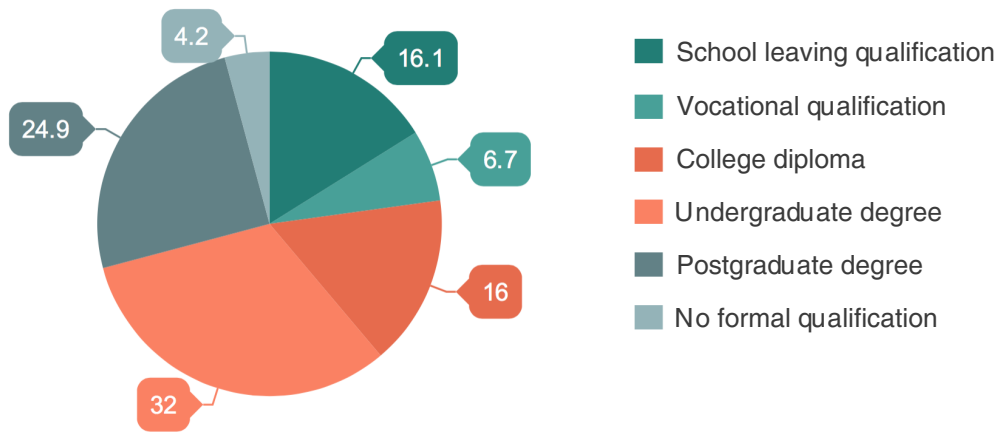


Age

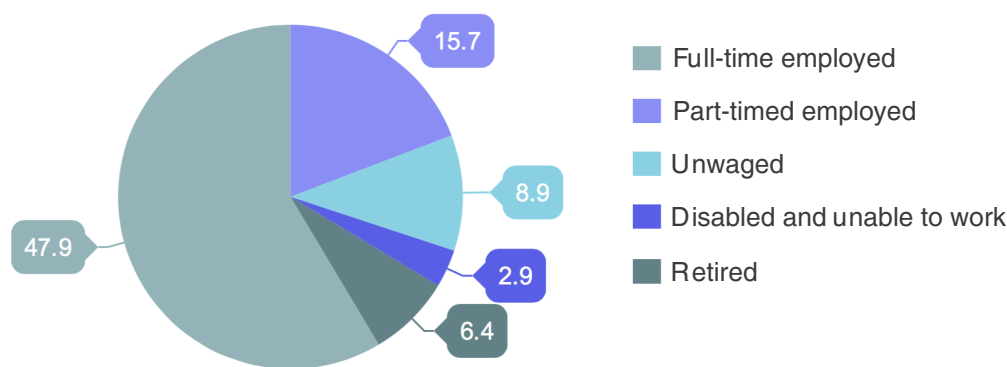


>15 years 15-18 19-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 <75 years

What is your highest educational qualification? N=3203



What is your employment status? N=3290

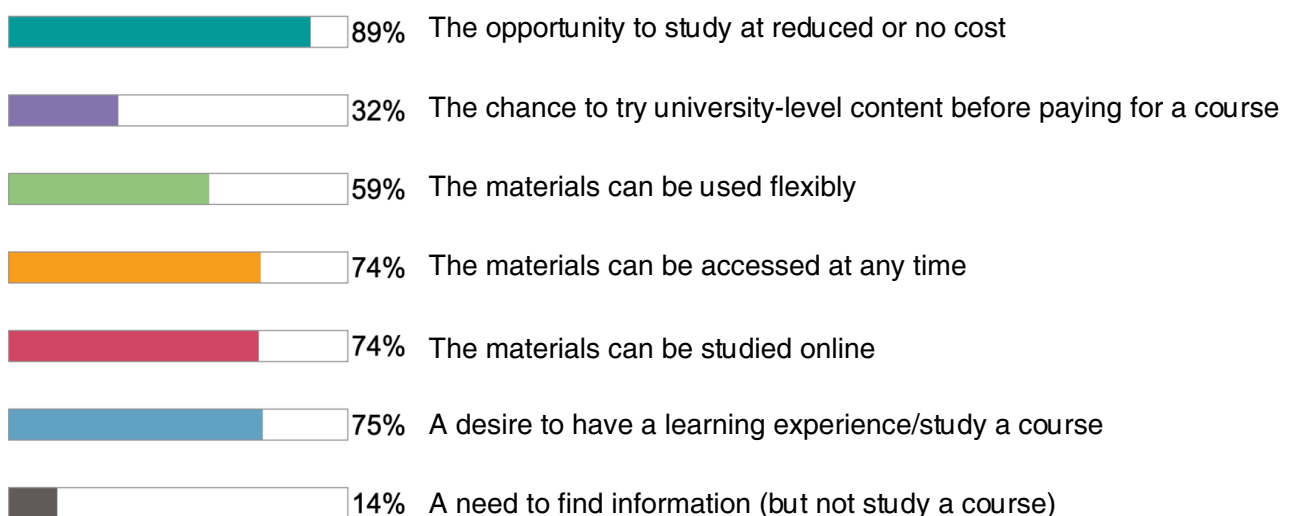


A majority of informal learners using OER are full-time employed and already hold a degree



Decision to use OER

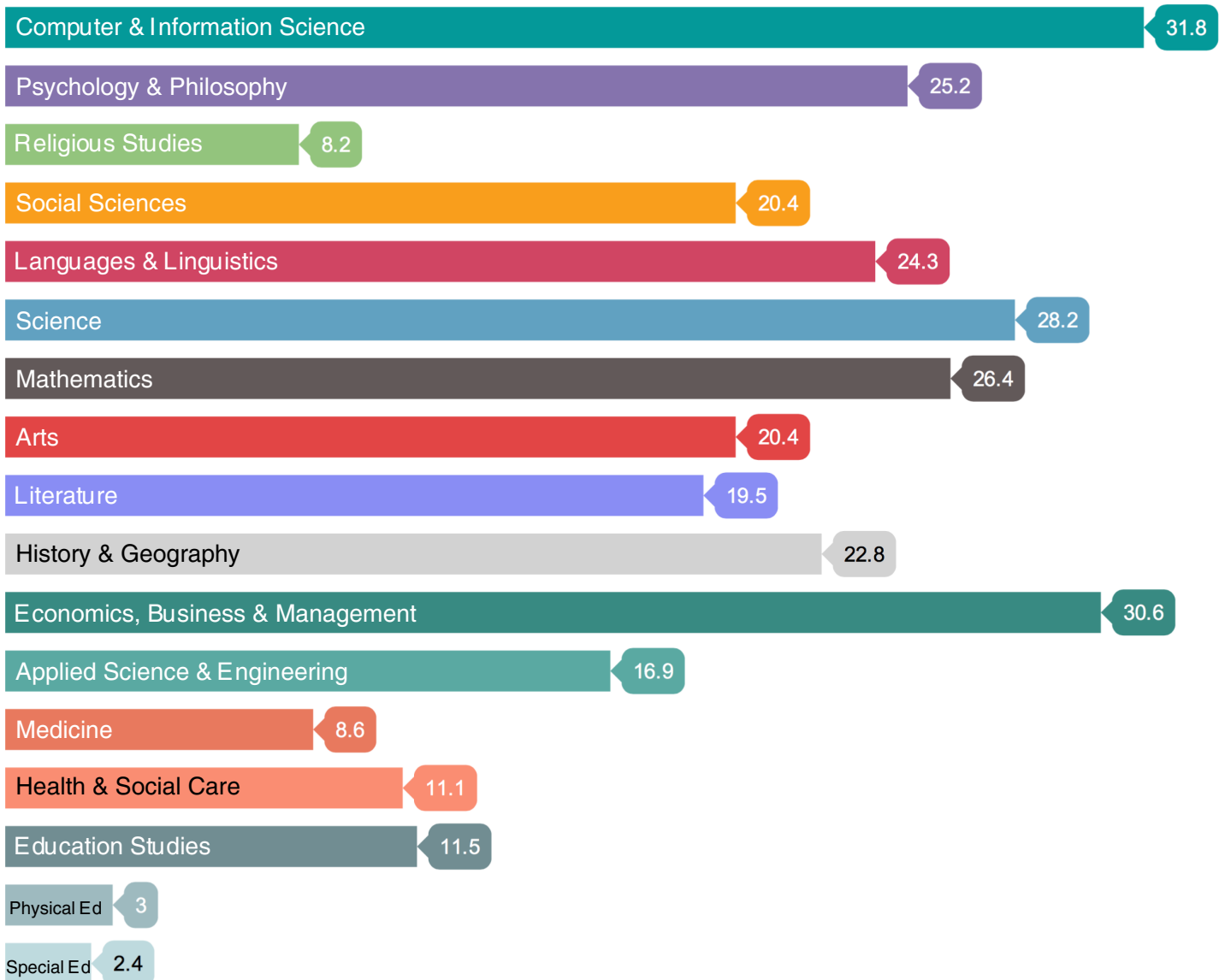
Which of the following factors influenced your decision to use OER? N=3147



Cost remains the biggest factor driving OER adoption

Use of OER

In what subject(s) do you normally use OER? N=2401



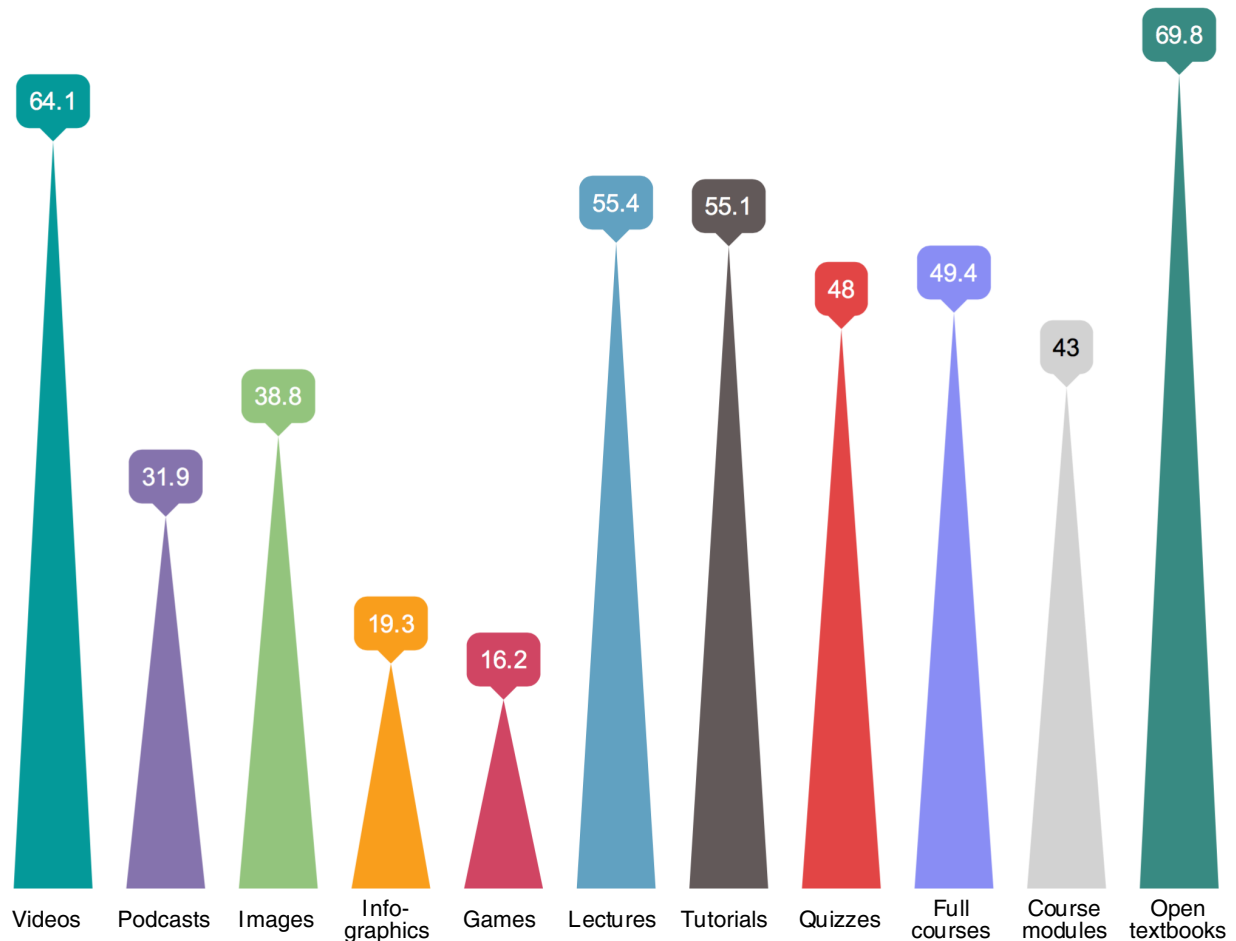
Economics and Computer Science top wide subject coverage of OER used by informal learners

Types of OER

Which of the following types of OER have you used for studying? N=2232



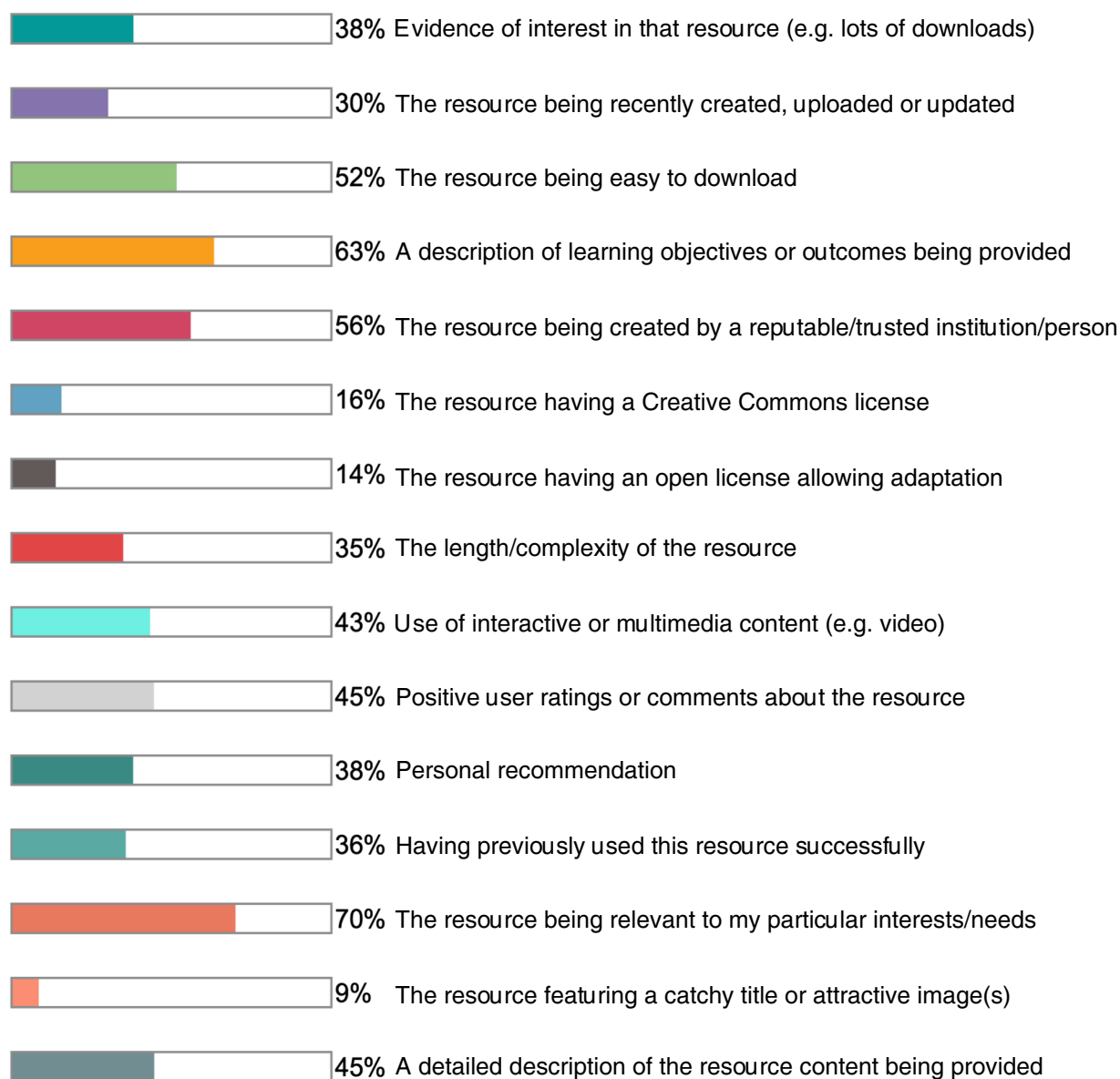
Broad variety of OER types used by informal learners



A smaller number of respondents (N=101) were asked about their use of lesson plans (32.7%), data sets (22.8%) and learning tools, instruments & software plugins (34.7%).

Selecting OER

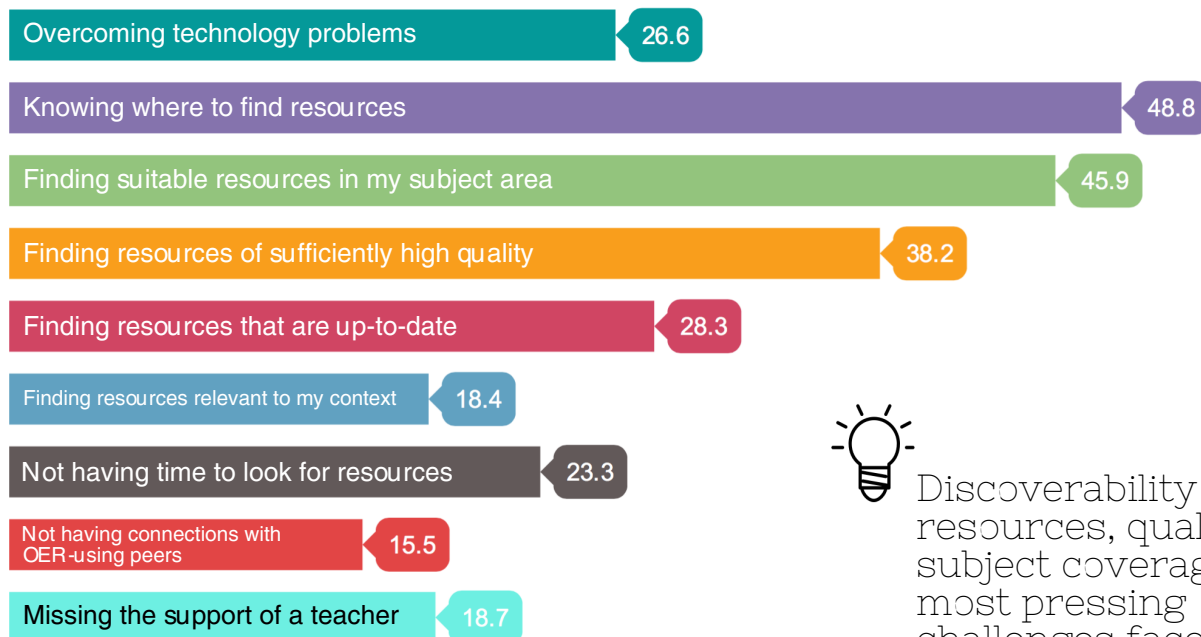
Which of the following factors would make you more likely to select a particular resource when searching for open educational content? N=3012



Relevance to one's particular needs and clear learning objectives guide informal learners' selection of open content. Few mindful of open licenses allowing adaptation.

Challenges of using OER

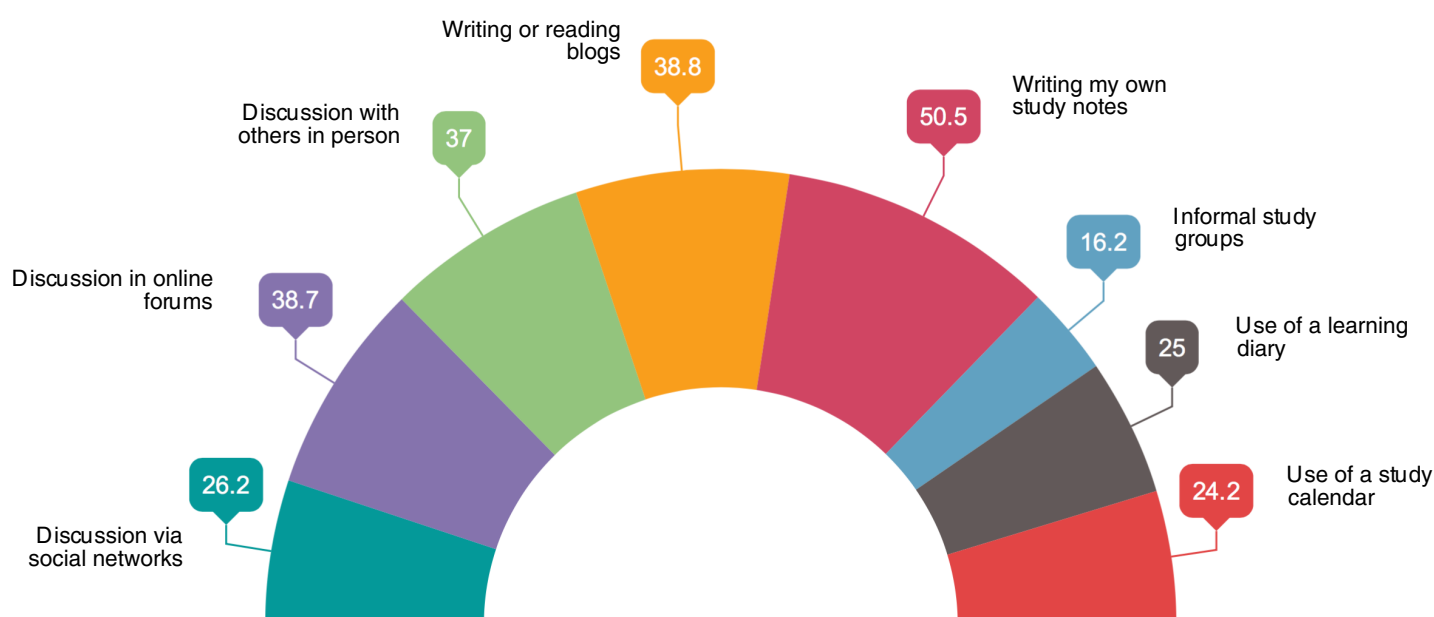
Which challenges, if any, do you most often face in using OER? N=1723



Discoverability of resources, quality and subject coverage are the most pressing challenges faced by informal learners using OER

Support techniques

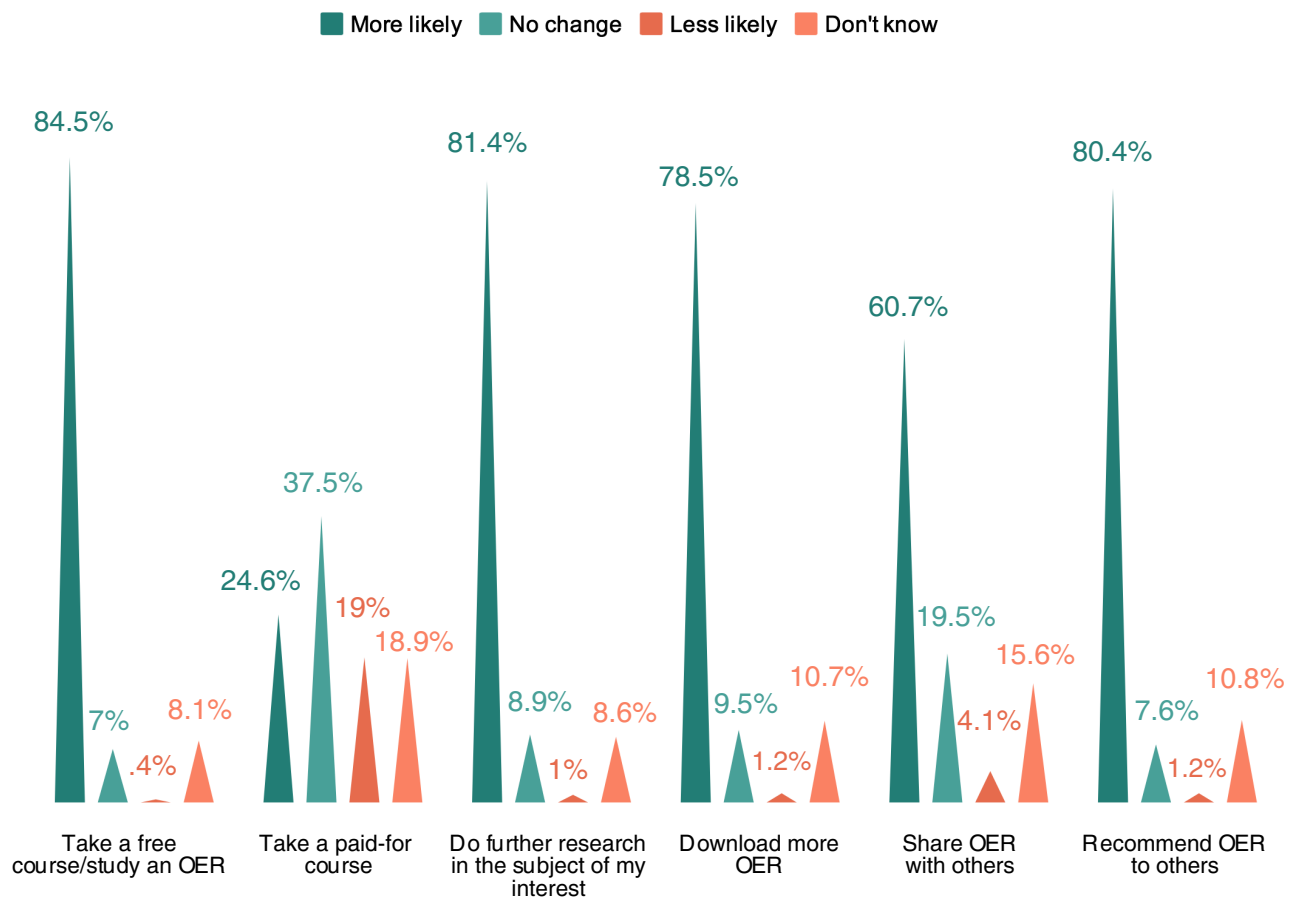
Which of these techniques have you used to support your learning with OER? N=1921



Informal learners use a variety of techniques to support their study with OER

Future behaviour

As a result of using [OpenLearn] resources, how likely are you to do any of the following? N=2701



High percentages of informal learners likely to continue using OER. A quarter of respondents inclined to go into formal education.